FAMILY VIOLENCE HURTS EVERYONE:

A FRAMEWORK TO END FAMILY VIOLENCE IN ALBERTA

Alberta
Government

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER AND ASSOCIATE MINISTER	3
BUILDING ALBERTA THROUGH STRONG FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES	4
INTRODUCTION	8
EVERYONE HAS A ROLE IN FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	10
OUR PROCESS	12
FAMILY VIOLENCE TRENDS	13
THE ISSUE	15
RISK FACTORS & PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE	17
A PRIMARY PREVENTION APPROACH	19
TYPES OF PREVENTION	20
A FRAMEWORK TO END FAMILY VIOLENCE IN ALBERTA	23
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: STRENGTHEN EFFORTS TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE ACROSS THE LIFESPAN	25
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: ENHANCE SERVICES, SUPPORTS AND THE JUSTICE RESPONSE FOR VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE	27
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: PARTNER AND PLAN WITH ALBERTA'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES	29
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: PROMOTE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY THROUGH POLICY, LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT	31
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: EVALUATE, MEASURE AND DEMONSTRATE COLLECTIVE SUCCESS	32
OUTCOMES	33
CONCLUSION	34
BIBLIOGRAPHY	39
APPENDIX A: ROLES FOR GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA MINISTRIES	35
APPENDIX B: THE COMMUNITY STRENGHTENED	
APPENDIX C: CONSULTATION THEMES	
APPENDIX D: GLOSSARY	37
APPENDIX E: PRIMARY PREVENTION MODELS	36

Message from the Minister of Human Services, the Honourable Dave Hancock

In co-creating Alberta's Social Policy Framework, Albertans made it clear that they value safe, welcoming and inclusive communities. However, incidents of family violence continue to have devastating impacts across the province. To place a special focus on this issue, Premier Redford created a new position, Associate Minister of Family and Community Safety. I am pleased to welcome Sandra Jansen into this role.

As a community, we will work to reduce children's exposure to violence in their homes, teach youth about respectful and healthy relationships and influence our society to embrace non-violent behaviours.

Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta is the result of collaborative efforts of staff from Alberta Health Services, Aboriginal Relations, Education, Health, Justice and Solicitor General and Human Services, as well as many community agencies and service providers. Thank you for your insight and dedication to ending family violence in Alberta. In particular, I would like to thank Lana Wells, the Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence at the University of Calgary, for providing a solid research base for our strategic priorities.

Everyone in Alberta deserves to be free from family violence and be able to experience the healthy relationships that are the foundation of vibrant lives.

Honourable Dave Hancock

Message from the Associate Minister of Family and Community Safety, the Honourable Sandra Jansen

Family violence affects us all – and there are no simple solutions to this complex and pervasive issue. It can happen to anyone, of any age, culture or demographic. It is costly; the human costs attributed to family violence are immeasurable, as the impacts last a lifetime. It strains our public systems – health, police, justice and social services all carry the burden. However, family violence is preventable.

Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta builds on a strong foundation of protection and intervention services that have helped Albertans regain lives of peace, dignity and respect. Now we are taking the next steps and embracing a strong, evidence-informed approach to primary prevention.

As Associate Minister of Family and Community Safety, I will champion the best practices, innovative programs, and exceptional efforts that are already addressing the root causes of violence. I will work closely with community and government partners to stop family violence before it starts by building and promoting healthy relationships. In effect, we will be creating a stronger community, one where everyone is respected and safe.

Through this framework and the dedication and commitment of people across Alberta, we will continue to work towards achieving our goal of strengthening family and community safety by ending family violence in our province.

Honourable Sandra Jansen

BUILDING ALBERTA THROUGH STRONG FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Alberta has made tremendous strides over the past three decades to deal with family violence and has built a solid foundation through innovative legislation, crisis intervention, legal and police response, and community coordination and collaboration. There is more work to do.

Now is the time to take the next step to focus on preventing family violence from happening in the first place.

Through this framework, we will build an Alberta where families, individuals and children are safe and free from family violence. We are making an investment in our communities that is more than buildings and roads – we are strengthening our social infrastructure and supporting the good work that communities are doing to care for their vulnerable members.

Why is this framework needed?

Family violence hurts everyone; here is a snapshot of the issue in Alberta:

- A 2012 Alberta study has determined that in every hour of every day, a woman is a victim of some form of violence by an ex-spouse or ex-partner
- More than 74,000 Albertans have reported physical or sexual abuse by a spouse or partner in the last five years
- Alberta has the second highest rate of self-reported spousal violence in the country
- Between 2000 and 2010 there were 121 deaths of intimate partner victims in Alberta
- Spousal victims were more likely than other victims to be first victimized as a child with 48 per cent reporting they were physically assaulted before the age of 15 and 75 per cent reporting that they were first sexually victimized as a child
- It is estimated that addressing family violence for women - who have fled an abusive situation - has cost Albertans more than $600 million over the past five years.
- Annually, the government of Alberta invests nearly $70 million on crisis services.

The Government of Alberta is committed to building an Alberta where people are safe, respected and enjoy healthy relationships.

What makes this framework different?

This framework is designed specifically for Alberta by building on the solid foundation of intervention and protection measures and enhancing existing strategies with evidence based practices such as home visitation, parenting and healthy relationship programs. Key elements that make this the framework different are:

- Incorporates a primary prevention approach to end violence before it starts
- Emphasizes children, youth and young adults as key levers for change
- Aims to reduce the social acceptance of violence
- Explicitly recognizes men and boys as partners in prevention
- Recognizes the link between sexual violence and family violence
- Addresses the need to focus on the prevention of dating violence because it has increased significantly amongst the younger population
- Establishes a Family Violence Death Review Committee to inform policy and practice
- Calls for specific plans for rural and remote communities, and acknowledges that a community-based approach that is led locally is the best way to effect change
- Goes beyond working with service providers and engages people from different settings – by working with faith leaders, sport groups and association, work places, community and business leaders
- Recognizes the diversity of Albertans and the need for specific action plans for – Aboriginal and ethno-cultural communities, people with disabilities and gender and sexual minorities
- Increases partnerships between universities, communities and government
- Links directly to other strategies across government; leveraging the potential for investments and positive outcomes
- Increases accountability by reporting back to Albertans every two years
- Improves evaluation to demonstrate a reduction in the rates of family violence in Alberta
- Outlines a process for ongoing community engagement.

A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta

This framework was developed by five Government of Alberta ministries: Aboriginal Relations, Education, Health, Human Services, Justice and Solicitor General as well as Alberta Health Services. Each ministry will have a significant role in implementing and measuring the successful achievements of the Framework's outcomes.

The concepts, strategic directions and priorities outlined in this framework were developed through consultations with community partners and government of Alberta staff as well as input from the Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic violence at the University of Calgary.

Albertans also provided input through client surveys, public consultations regarding the Social Policy Framework and community conversations with Aboriginal people. Five strategic priorities were identified:

- Strengthen Efforts to Prevent Family Violence Across the Lifespan
- Enhance Services, Supports and the Justice Response for Victims and Offenders of Family Violence
- Partner and Plan with Alberta's Diverse Communities
- Promote Family and Community Safety through Policy, Legislation and Public Engagement
- Evaluate, Measure, and Demonstrate Success.

Measuring Success

The following outcomes are the anticipated results associated with the implementation of this framework:

- The transmission of violence from one generation to the next is reduced
- Reduction in family violence-related deaths
- Improved access to resources, services and supports for victims and offenders
- Increased awareness of family violence, how to prevent it and where to go for help
- Communities value healthy and respectful relationships

Everyone Has a Role in Ending Family Violence

Large-scale social change requires broad cross-sector leadership, coordination, collaboration and engaged citizens. No single organization or sector is going to solve family violence – it is going to take all of us to end this complex social issue.

The Government of Alberta is committed to working with its partners to make lasting societal change in the prevention of family violence through a full continuum of services and programs and investing in primary prevention strategies that focus on children, youth, young adults, families and seniors.

The implementation of the *Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta* will be guided by the Social Policy Framework and strengthened using a whole-government approach and working in partnership with other government initiatives.

INTRODUCTION

Family violence hurts everyone—the children, women, men and families who experience violence, the witnesses and bystanders, as well as those who are responsible for committing the violence. Victims of abuse experience significant loss when their home—the one place they should feel safe and secure—is a place of danger. Family violence affects the physical, emotional, financial and spiritual health of children and adults, and shatters the sense of well-being needed to thrive in life.

Family violence is defined as the abuse of power within relationships of family, trust or dependency that endangers the survival, security or well-being of another person. It takes many forms including intimate partner abuse, sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, parent abuse, elder abuse and neglect, and witnessing the abuse of others in the family. Family violence may include some or all of the following behaviours: physical abuse; psychological abuse; criminal harassment/stalking; verbal and emotional abuse; sexual violence and abuse; financial abuse; and spiritual abuse.

Family members are those people who are or have been married, adult interdependent partners, those who live or have lived together as intimate partners, parents of one or more children, regardless of their marital status and people. Family members also include those who are related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption or those who reside together where one of the people has care and custody over the other as ordered by the Court (as defined in *Protection Against Family Violence Act*).

Family violence affects a large portion of the population and crosses all demographic and cultural boundaries. It is not just an individual, private or family matter; it is unquestionably a public concern. Family violence is a social issue, a criminal justice issue, a public health issue, and a human rights issue. The financial implications of family violence include heavy demands on the health care system, education and social services and judicial services. Most importantly, the human costs and impact are immeasurable. This is why the government continues to be committed to addressing this issue and taking strong action against it.

The Government of Alberta made a commitment to Albertans in 1984 with the creation of the first Office for the Prevention of Family Violence in Canada and the Interdepartmental Committee on Family Violence and renewed that commitment in 2004 with the Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying. The Roundtable built on a foundation of effective practices already in place in Alberta to respond to family violence and bullying and provided a strategy with new dollars for continued action. Implementation of the strategy was guided by a common commitment for all government departments and community agencies to work together with individuals, families and communities to break the complex cycle of family violence.

Since the 2004 Roundtable, government and community partners have been working together to strengthen a coordinated community and justice response to family violence, including improved services for victims of family violence, comprehensive treatment programs for offenders, enhanced support for immigrant and Aboriginal communities, safe visitation services for families in conflict, public awareness campaigns and educational materials, along with a 24 hour/7 days a week toll-free information line for Albertans experiencing family violence.

"Family violence is not just a private or family matter; it is unquestionably a public concern."

Over the last nine years, additional resources were invested in women's shelters, programs targeting offenders (including the expansion of family violence courts and mandated treatment programs), the creation of the Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (I-TRAC), specialized police units, and the strengthening of legislation including amendments to the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* and the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*. (For a detailed list of investments, please refer to Appendix B.)

What's different in the Framework?

Building on a solid foundation of intervention, treatment and protection measures, the Government of Alberta determined that the framework needed to be redesigned to include a greater emphasis on primary prevention, and incorporate new and emergent research and learn from other programs and policies that are making a difference around the world to stop violence before it starts. It was also decided that the issues of family violence and bullying would each have their own plan.

This Framework is built on the unique aspects of Alberta. With economic success, there are growing stresses. Alberta's population is growing-we have a relatively young population. Families are arriving from other parts of the country or the world who often are isolated – without close extended family or support. Police reports indicate that violence is starting younger, during dating relationships. The reports indicate that there are a large number of sexual assaults in family violence situations. There are many diverse communities and demographics in our province. This diversity is recognized, the framework speaks to specific plans for rural and remote areas, Aboriginal and ethno-cultural communities, people with disabilities, and sexual minorities. Men have an important role to play in preventing violence. Reaching beyond the typical services providers is necessary. We must work with business, with faith, cultural and community leaders, as well as family, friends and neighbours.

The Framework aligns with other key government strategies. For example: An Alberta Approach to Early Childhood Development; Creating Connections: Addictions and Mental Health Strategy; A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 Years; Information Sharing Strategy ; Family Care Clinics.

While all forms of family violence are unacceptable, the focus of this framework is primarily on: **preventing intimate partner violence; stopping the transmission of violence to children, youth and young adults; and building healthy relationships across the lifespan – from children to seniors.**

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE IN FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Large-scale social change requires broad cross-sector leadership, coordination, collaboration and engaged citizens. No single organization or sector is going to solve family violence. Everyone has a role in ending this complex social issue. Working together, we can reduce the rates of family violence and build and sustain healthy relationships in every community.

Role of individuals, families and neighbours

- Take personal responsibility for individual wellness and healthy relationships
- Be active bystanders to prevent and/or stop violence from occurring
- Be engaged citizens and stand up to end family violence in Alberta
- Support family, friends and neighbours to get help when they need it
- Stop the transmission of violence from one generation to the next

Role of formal and informal community leaders and community groups

- Improve community connections to reduce social isolation
- Value and support non-violence
- Help build respectful and equitable gender relations
- Take action to address family violence within the community
- Inform, influence and lead community change

Role of service providers and non-government organizations

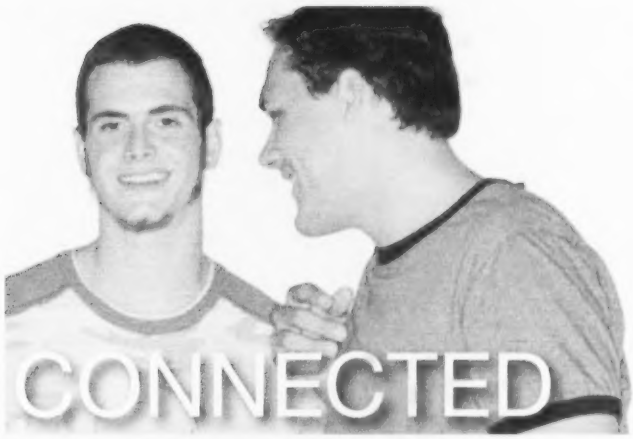
- Deliver front-line services and supports
- Share research and best practices to identify emerging trends
- Work with government to identify needs, issues and strategic directions
- Partner with academics to identify and implement promising and evidence-based practices
- Lead, support and build community capacity to prevent family violence

Role of the private sector

- Value and promote respectful gender relations
- Support and implement family violence workplace policies and supports
- Provide leadership, modeling and safe work environments
- Engage and support employees in building healthy relationships
- Provide charitable and philanthropic giving
- Support employees to take a stand against family violence

Role of the Government of Alberta

- Establish a shared vision, provincial priorities and policy direction among all ministries
- Provide a legislative and policy framework and funding to support ending family violence
- Facilitate collaboration among individuals, families, communities and all sectors
- Support the provision of coordinated and integrated supports and services at the community level and a strong justice response
- Facilitate opportunities to mobilize knowledge between policy makers, academics, practitioners and citizens
- Measure and monitor success of the framework's outcomes to support innovative research and programming. (see Appendix A, Roles for Government of Alberta Ministries)



OUR PROCESS

The development of this framework was shared across five Government of Alberta Ministries: Aboriginal Relations, Education, Health, Human Services, Justice and Solicitor General as well as Alberta Health Services.

1. The Government of Alberta consulted with more than 200 individuals across Alberta, including community partners and government staff to understand: a) what is working among the programs and policies that currently exist; b) where are the gaps; and c) what are the recommendations on future priorities for the Government of Alberta. The themes that emerged from these consultations have been incorporated into this new strategic framework. (For a list of consultation themes, please see Appendix C. For detailed definitions of the terms used throughout this report, please see Appendix D.)
2. The Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence team in the Faculty of Social Work, at the University of Calgary produced research briefs and reports supported by multiple funders to ground this framework in primary prevention. In addition, they reviewed 80 research and evaluation reports that were completed by and for the Government of Alberta between 2005 and 2012 during the implementation of the Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying: Finding Solutions Together Strategy.
3. An internal scan on key Government of Alberta initiatives and frameworks to understand and identify intergovernmental strategies and outcomes that intersect to reduce family violence (e.g., Creating Connections: Alberta's Addiction and Mental Health Strategy, Addressing Elder Abuse in Alberta – A Strategy for Collective Action, Alberta's Crime Prevention Framework, A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 Years).
4. Several field and content experts from government, the community and post-secondary institutions were consulted.
5. Information from client surveys completed by more than one thousand women who have stayed in women's shelters and families who have accessed community programs.
6. Key themes identified through the public consultations for the Government of Alberta's Social Policy Framework and the community conversations completed by the Aboriginal Policy and Community Engagement Division of Human Services were also taken into consideration.

Note: To access supporting references for this framework, refer to the document: Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta; A Source Document. Suggested citation: Wells, L., Ferguson, J. & Interdepartmental Committee on Family Violence and Bullying. (2012). *Family violence hurts everyone: A framework to end family violence in Alberta* [A source document]. Calgary, AB: The University of Calgary, Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence.

FAMILY VIOLENCE TRENDS

Statistics for family violence have changed over the past 13 years. Self-reported spousal violence in Alberta has gone from 9.9 per cent in 1999 to 8.7 per cent in 2004 and 7.6 per cent in 2009. While this does reveal a downward trend, Alberta's rate of self-reported spousal violence in 2009 was still significantly higher than the national average of 6.2 per cent.

In addition:

- Alberta has the second highest rate of self-reported spousal violence in the country. In 2010, Alberta had the fifth highest rate of police-reported intimate partner violence.
- Between 2000-2010, there were 121 deaths of intimate partner victims in Alberta.
- Nine per cent of Albertans find it acceptable in at least one situation to be physically violent towards their spouse.
- Females continue to report more serious forms of spousal violence than males. In 2009, females who reported spousal violence were about three times more likely than males (34 per cent versus 10 per cent) to report that they had been sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a gun or a knife by their partner or ex-partner in the previous five years.
- The prevalence of self-reported spousal violence in Alberta reveals that every hour of every day a woman will be a victim of some form of violence by an ex-spouse or ex-partner.
- Aboriginal women were almost three times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to report they had been a victim of spousal abuse in the past five years.
- According to the 2009 General Social Survey on Victimization (GSS):
  - Spousal victims were more likely than other victims to be first victimized as a child with 48 per cent of spousal victims reporting they were physically assaulted before the age of 15, and 75 per cent reporting that they were first sexually victimized as a child.
  - Parents were responsible for more than half (59 per cent) of all family-related sexual offences and physical assaults against children and youth victims in 2009. For every 100,000 children and youth in Canada in 2009, 126 were physically or sexually assaulted by their parents.
  - The youngest child victims (under the age of three years) are the most vulnerable to violence by a parent. In 2009, about eight in 10 victims (or 81 per cent) in this age group were assaulted by their parent. This compares to 60 per cent of three to 11 year-olds and 55 per cent of 12 to 17 year-olds.
  - Overall, police-reported data show that girls under the age of 18 were more likely than boys of the same age to be victims of family violence. This finding was due largely to victimizations involving sexual offences. In 2009, the rate of sexual offences by family members that came to the attention of police was four times higher for girls than boys (113 versus 28 per 100,000 children and youth population). Higher rates of sexual victimization against girls held true regardless of the victim's age.

- In Canada, police-reported data indicates that dating partner violence was more prevalent than spousal violence. In fact:
  - Young people aged 12 to 14 represented about one per cent of all dating partner violence with a rate of 56 victims per 100,000 population.
  - Those aged 15 to 24 had a rate of 520 victims per 100,000.
  - Those aged 25 to 34 had a rate of 739 per 100,000 population.
- Over half (51 per cent) of victims of intimate partner violence suffered injuries, suggesting that in addition to the trauma to the victim, intimate partner violence continues to be a significant burden on the health care system.
- Intimate partner violence was more likely than non-intimate partner violence to result in charges being laid or recommended, suggesting a high cost and ongoing burden for policing services and the criminal justice system.
- Overall, close to seven in 10 victims of spousal violence turned to informal sources of support, such as family, friends, neighbours, co-workers, doctors and spiritual advisors. In 2009, close to three in 10 victims (28 per cent) reported contacting or using a formal service, such as a counsellor or psychologist, to help them deal with the violence.
- The senior population had the lowest risk of violence compared to any other age group, irrespective of whether the incident involved a family member or someone outside the family. However, seniors were most at risk from friends or acquaintances (73 victims per 100,000 seniors), followed by family members (61 victims per 100,000) and strangers (51 victims per 100,000).
- In Canada, women with disabilities most frequently experience victimization from an intimate partner or spouse, family member or caregiver. Approximately 40 per cent of these women will be assaulted, sexually assaulted or abused throughout their lives.

THE ISSUE

Family Violence is Complex

It is difficult to obtain a complete picture of the extent of family violence in Alberta because it often remains hidden. Victims experience isolation, shame, embarrassment and humiliation. Victims may stay in abusive relationships because they are afraid that the violence may escalate if they leave, or they are committed to making the relationship work, or they do not have the resources to leave, or because friends and family may not support their decision to leave. In some cases, if victims leave, they are abandoned, ignored and harassed by their extended family and their community because they have challenged their community values and brought perceived shame and dishonour to the family and community. Leaving can be difficult and complicated—and for many people who do flee a violent relationship, it doesn't necessarily mean the violence stops, in some cases it escalates. Adding to the complexity, gender inequality, income disparity between genders, expected gender roles in parenting and marriage, marginalization of racialized and ethno-cultural groups, sexism and discrimination are all factors that contribute to family violence.

Family Violence is Pervasive

In Canada, over 1.14 million people reported they had been either physically or sexually assaulted by their partner or spouse in the last five years. The percentage for Alberta was 7.6 per cent self-reported (8.7 per cent for women, 6.5 per cent for men). This equates to just over 74,000 Albertans who reported having been either physically or sexually abused by a spouse or partner in the past five years. In addition, for those that have an ex-spouse or partner, self-reported family violence is estimated at 17.4 per cent. In 2009, there were 45,837 women who indicated they had experienced one or more incidents of physical or sexual violence in the past five years by the hands of their ex-spouse or ex-partner. This means that in every hour of every day, a woman in Alberta is abused by her ex-partner or ex-spouse.

Results from the 2009 GSS Victimization Survey indicate that between 2004 and 2009 there was an increase in the proportion of spousal violence victims reporting that children heard or saw assaults on them (from 43 per cent to 52 per cent of spousal victims with children). Parents were almost four times more likely to involve the police when a child witnessed the incident of spousal violence than when children were not present during the spousal violence incident (39 per cent versus 10 per cent).

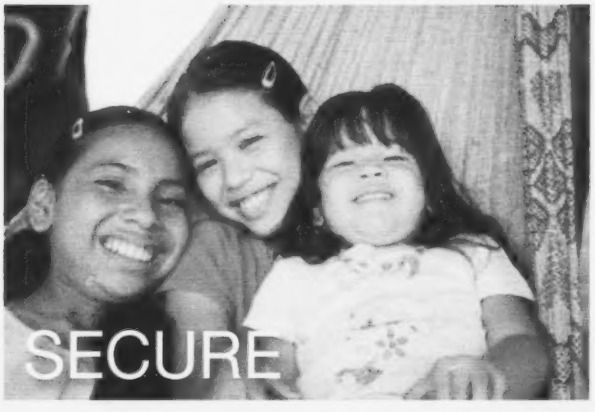
In Alberta, every hour of every day, a woman is a victim of some form of violence by an ex-spouse or ex-partner.

Family Violence is Costly

In addition to the devastating human cost, it is estimated that the cost of addressing family violence in Canada is in the billions. Annually, the Government of Alberta spends nearly $70 million on crisis services, including women's shelters, sexual assault services, mandated treatment programs, counselling, bullying prevention programs and collaborative community response programs and services. This amount does not include funds spent on justice, police services, child intervention services or general health services for those in a family violence situation.

In a 2012 Alberta report, it is estimated that addressing family violence for women after they have fled an abusive situation has cost Albertans more than $600 million over the past five years. This is a conservative estimate, as it does not include budgets associated with repeated police responses to deal with ongoing violence, medical services sought, legal and court costs, lost time at work, and the negative effects that witnessing family violence has on children.

We must focus our efforts on children, youth and young adults, and building healthy socio-cultural values and environments.



Family Violence is Preventable

There are evidence-based programs and policies that can stop family violence from happening in the first place, by promoting and creating healthy relationships, healthy attitudes, and healthy families. Research shows that most of the precursors of family violence occur in childhood and adolescence. Children and youth learn relationship skills and social behaviours from their parents and other family members. A high proportion of children who witness or experience violent relationships in childhood go on to perpetuate these patterns in adulthood with their own children and partners. If we want to prevent violence before it starts, we must focus our efforts on children, youth and young adults, especially those who are or may soon become parents. The second focus for prevention of family violence is building non-violent and healthy values, beliefs, attitudes and environments as research shows they often determine and influence appropriate and inappropriate behaviours.

RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE

Understanding who is likely to experience family violence and who is likely to perpetrate it allows practitioners, researchers and policy-makers to better understand how to develop and implement prevention activities. Risk factors for family violence are defined as an attribute or exposure that increases the probability of family violence.

These can exist for those at risk of perpetrating violence as well as those at risk of being a victim of violence. The following table is based on research and findings outlined in the World Health Organization's *Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women* report (2010). Risk factors with the strongest reported effect are indicated with an asterisk. Family violence knows no boundaries, it cuts across every segment of society and occurs in all ages, racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, sexual orientation and religion.

Characteristics of Perpetration	Characteristics of Victimization
Individual Level	**Individual Level**
Demographics • Young age • Low socio-economic status • Unemployment Exposure to child maltreatment • Sexual abuse* Other • Low self-esteem • Impulsivity • Attachment style • Alcohol consumption and dependence Prior history of being abused*	Demographics • Gender (being a woman) • Low socio-economic status • Pregnancy • Age • Member of a socially excluded group Exposure to child maltreatment • Sexual abuse* • Physical abuse Other • Impulsivity • Consumption and dependence • Low self-esteem Exposure to prior abuse/victimization*
Relationship Level	**Relationship Level**
Educational disparity Sexual possessiveness Relationship quality • Gender role disputes • Marital duration	Educational disparity Number of children

Community Level	Community Level
Neighbourhood characteristics • High proportion of poverty • High proportion of unemployment • High proportion of male illiteracy • High proportion of households that use corporal punishment	Neighbourhood characteristics • High proportion of poverty • High proportion of unemployment • High proportion of female illiteracy • Low proportion of women with high level of autonomy • Low proportion of women with higher education
Societal Level	**Societal Level**
• None provided	• Divorce laws, and protective marriage laws

Protective Factors to Prevent Family Violence

Protective factors also play a role in the context of family violence. Generally, protective factors are those that influence the ability of an individual to develop positively, despite harmful environments and experiences. Some identified protective factors include:

- Experiencing positive parenting that includes "parental encouragement and support, and non-coercive rule-setting and monitoring"
- Being employed
- Positive academic achievement
- Being actively involved and connected to schools
- Having strong links with supportive adults
- Belonging to an association with strong sanctions against violence
- Living within an extended family
- Being formally married

Where possible, protective factors need to be fostered, which may be through structural and other interventions such as promoting gender equality, reducing poverty, building Albertans' connections and social networks, and promoting positive parenting. It is about identifying the factors that place people at risk of perpetrating and/or experiencing family violence, and working to eliminate those risk factors; while at the same time building protective factors and resilience and creating the social conditions for people to build and sustain healthy relationships.

Promoting gender equality, reducing poverty, building Albertan's connections and social networks, and promoting positive parenting all contribute to preventing and reducing family violence.

A PRIMARY PREVENTION APPROACH

BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

The Government of Alberta has invested in a comprehensive continuum of services to respond to the devastating impacts of family violence and will continue to invest in strengthening these services.

Community agencies throughout Alberta have made significant contributions to addressing family violence through advocacy and support to families, providing emergency shelter for women and children, outreach services, coordinated collaborative services, training opportunities across disciplines, research and supporting emerging trends.

Continuum of Support and Services

Awareness

- Family Violence Info Line
- Family Violence Prevention Month
- Media campaigns
- Websites
- Printed material
- Conferences/workshops
- Public opinion survey on Alberta's perception of Family Violence and Bullying
- Elder Abuse Awareness Workshops
- Inspiration Awards

Prevention

- Supports to parents: Home Visitation, Triple P Parenting; Parent Link Centres
- Childcare supports in women's shelters
- Health screening programs
- Enhanced curriculum of school-based programs
- Family Violence and Bullying 101 training for practitioners
- Provincial Elder Abuse Prevention Coordinator

Intervention

- Counselling and treatment for victims and offenders
- Coordinated Collaborative Response Model
- Family Justice Services
- Financial supports for Albertans Fleeing Abuse
- Women's and Senior's Shelters
- Housing supports
- Support to Sexual Assault Centres
- Taking Action Against Elder Abuse Training
- Family Violence and Bullying Coordinators

Outreach

- Safe Visitation Initiatives
- Victim Support Outreach
- Outreach workers at Women's Shelters
- Community Engagement Framework
- Coordinated Collaborative Response Model

Enforcement

- *Protection Against Family Violence Act (PAFVA)*
- Domestic Violence Courts
- Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (I-TRAC)
- Specialized police units and prosecutors
- Screening and assessment tools
- Domestic violence police guidelines
- Domestic violence handbook for Crown Prosecutors
- Close supervision and enforcement of court orders

As in most jurisdictions around the world, the bulk of this effort has been aimed at victims and their families, and at efforts to prevent violence from re-occurring. **In adding a primary prevention approach to address family violence, the focus of this framework is to take action to prevent problems before they occur the first time.**

TYPES OF PREVENTION

Primary Prevention

Primary prevention explicitly focuses on action before the condition of concern develops. In the area of family violence, it means reducing the number of new instances of violence by intervening before any violence has occurred. "Interventions can be delivered to the whole population or to particular groups that are at high risk of using or experiencing violence in the future." Primary prevention programs are often delivered to large groups in order to reach a cohort within a short timeframe. Examples include: whole-school approaches to building healthy relationships skills; home visitation programs that target first-time moms and parents; and social marketing campaigns that encourage bystanders to step in to stop the violence (for Primary Prevention models see Appendix E)

Secondary Prevention

In the realm of family violence, secondary prevention refers to "attempts to detect situations where violence is already occurring, but doing so earlier than it might otherwise have been identified". For example, immediate responses to those accessing pre-hospital care or emergency services, before the violence results in hospitalization or police intervention. Secondary prevention also refers to efforts to prevent further acts from occurring once violence has been identified. It is often referred to as "early intervention."

Tertiary Prevention

Tertiary prevention involves providing support and treatment to those already affected by family violence, as well as interventions to reduce the impact of violence once it has been reported. For victims, this includes such strategies as counselling and health care responses, while for the offenders it includes offender treatment programs and other judicial responses. The focus here is on reducing the harmful consequences of an act of violence after it has occurred, and on long-term care in the wake of violence, for example, rehabilitation and reintegration to reduce long-term trauma.

While primary prevention strategies are often unique, it must be stressed that it is not always possible to make clear distinctions between the three types of prevention, and often a robust primary prevention framework will contain elements of secondary or tertiary strategies to ensure a comprehensive continuum.

The Government of Alberta is committed to supporting the full continuum of prevention.

A FRAMEWORK TO END FAMILY VIOLENCE IN ALBERTA

The Government of Alberta is committed to strengthening and building on the continuum of intervention, treatment and protection services to address family violence. *Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta* builds on this solid foundation and expands the focus to include primary prevention. Overall, the emphasis is on preventing intimate partner violence; stopping the transmission of violence to children, youth and young adults; and building healthy relationships across the lifespan.

Prevention of family violence includes more than strategies that stop violence; we need to be equally focused on giving children and youth the knowledge and skills to develop respectful and healthy relationships throughout their lifetime. Healthy individual and interpersonal relationships are the basis of a strong and safe community. The majority of these skills are learned and reinforced in the home, school and the community. Maintaining a healthy relationship takes time, energy and care—but it is well worth it. Healthy relationships make everyone feel respected and safe.

A critical area for stopping the cycle of family violence is providing a comprehensive continuum of services to identify those at risk and getting them the right support at the right time; and to prevent the violence from occurring again. A comprehensive approach includes awareness, prevention, intervention, outreach and enforcement activities to ensure that whatever stage the family is at, there are supports available to them.

Alberta is a leader in addressing family violence and will continue to lead through *Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta*. This framework takes the next step. It builds on new research and what has been learned from programs and policies that are making a difference here in Alberta and around the world. This framework outlines the Government of Alberta's priorities over the next ten years. Our focus is on: primary prevention; enhancing provincial policy, legislation and investments; applying a whole-government approach; engaging leadership from all sectors; improving client-centred service coordination; and engaging all Albertans to be active in ending family violence.

Vision

An Alberta where children, women, men and families are free from family violence.

Mission

To prevent and reduce the incidence and prevalence of family violence and ensure that Albertans have the supports they require to build and maintain healthy relationships.

Guiding Principles

This framework is grounded in the following principles:

- **Safety in the Home:** The safety of Albertans affected by family violence is paramount.
- **Focus on Primary Prevention:** Emphasis is placed on primary prevention strategies that target both high-risk groups and the population at large.

- **Human Rights Perspective:** Family violence is a fundamental violation of human rights and is unacceptable in any form.
- **Collaboration:** Prevention, intervention and protection services are jointly planned and are delivered in partnership with communities and families.
- **Evidence-Informed:** Strategies are grounded in evidence with an emphasis on the monitoring and evaluation of implementation efforts.
- **Client-Centered Approach:** The client is directly involved in all aspects of decision-making, needs-identification and service provision.
- **Gender-Based Approach:** Policies, programs and initiatives are assessed based on gender in order to respond to the different situations and experiences of women, men, boys and girls.
- **Lifespan Perspective:** The causes, consequences and prevention of family violence are viewed from a lifespan perspective, which recognizes the need for prevention and intervention at all stages of life – from early childhood to seniors.
- **Culturally Appropriate:** Attitudes, norms and diverse social realities are considered in the planning, delivery and implementation of research, policy and practices.
- **Shared Responsibility:** Responsibility for ending family violence is shared among all sectors and all Albertans.
- **Whole-Government Approach:** A collective effort of all ministries to prevent, reduce and end family violence.

Strategic Priorities

There are five key strategic priorities outlined in the framework.

1. Strengthen efforts to prevent family violence across the lifespan
2. Enhance services, supports and the justice response for victims and offenders of family violence
3. Partner with Alberta's diverse communities
4. Promote family and community safety through policy, legislation and public engagement
5. Evaluate, measure and demonstrate collective success

The priorities contain goals and strategies that are intended to impact individuals, families, the community and society at large. They acknowledge the complexity and interactive nature of risk and protective factors that can influence and prevent violent behaviour and vulnerability to violence. They have also been designed to leverage the important work already underway both with the Government of Alberta and across communities.

Strategic Priority 1: Strengthen efforts to prevent family violence across the lifespan

Prevention can be described as a continuum: preventing abuse from happening in the first place; intervening in a crisis to prevent additional abuse; and treatment to prevent future abusive behaviour. Naturally, this continuum takes place across the lifespan, from children experiencing and/or witnessing abuse, to teens in first dating relationships, to adults as partners, parents and grandparents. Strengthening efforts to prevent family violence across the lifespan is critical to preventing and reducing rates of family violence.

A focus within this priority is children, youth and young adults because children who are abused themselves, or exposed to the abuse of a parent (which often occur in tandem) are at risk of significant, long-term emotional problems, along with a range of behavioural problems. These include violence toward others in childhood and adolescence, abusive behaviours toward their own children in adulthood, and abuse of and/or victimization by dating and marriage partners. Being a child exposed to family violence impacts the ability to have healthy relationships. Experiences of violence in the home teach children that violence is an acceptable, even normal, part of parenting and intimate relationships, which impacts how they relate to their families and influences future relationships. A critical strategy to end violence in the home is working with parents, families, and seniors to build healthy relationships and families.

Goal

Prevent families from experiencing violence through evidence-informed programs and supports.

Strategies

- In alignment with the Alberta Approach to Early Childhood Development which focuses on enhancing parenting resources - develop a provincial parenting strategy that: explores best practices for supporting at risk families; expands evidence-based positive parenting programs; and promotes non-physical forms of discipline.
- Provide support to programs that focus on teen mothers and promote positive fathering programs for teen fathers and new parents.
- Enhance Alberta's home visitation program to incorporate a strong focus on preventing family violence through screening and building healthy parent/child relationships.
- Work closely with Family Care Clinics to ensure medical staff, social workers and other professionals are trained in trauma sensitive practices and screening for family violence.
- Partner with Creating Connections: Addiction and Mental Health Strategy to support parents who are experiencing mental health issues, in order to prevent children's exposure to family violence.
- Incorporate family violence prevention in Family Justice Services programs and supports. For example, parenting after separation and high conflict programs for parents.

Goal

Promote gender equality, respect and healthy relationships.

Strategies

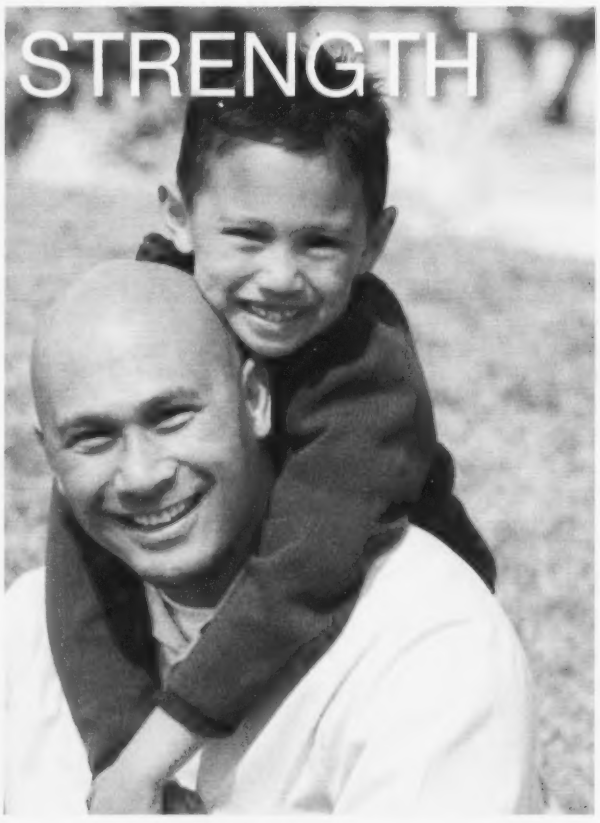
- Develop, promote and support a comprehensive provincial strategy to engage men and boys in family violence prevention.
- Adopt a whole-school and community approach to improve children and young people's healthy relationship skills, social and emotional intelligence, and sexual health using evidence-informed programs and policies.
- Pilot an evidence-informed educational program promoting gender equality and healthy relationships tailored to young people in post-secondary school settings.
- In partnership with youth-serving community agencies and school jurisdictions, support a strategic and coordinated approach to provide healthy relationship skills to youth.
- Apply a gender-based analysis to identify solutions for preventing family violence throughout all programs, strategies and initiatives funded by the Government of Alberta.
- Support sport and recreation groups, associations and clubs to promote violence prevention and healthy relationships.

Goal

Prevent older adults and seniors from experiencing elder abuse.

Strategies

- Continue to work with governments and community partners to implement the Addressing Elder Abuse in Alberta: A Strategy for Collective Action, the Alberta government's plan to prevent and address elder abuse.



Strategic Priority 2: Enhance services, supports and the justice response for victims and offenders of family violence

Many studies have identified factors related to housing, poverty and employment as key issues preventing victims of family violence from leaving their abusive partner. Helping parents who are victims of family violence to become independent from their abusive partners is an important strategy in preventing children's exposure to family violence and its consequences. Over the last eight years, Alberta has built a robust continuum of crisis intervention services across the province. Women's shelters, sexual assault services, counselling services, coordinated justice response programs, family violence networks and treatment programs have supported many Albertans to reduce and stop the cycle of family violence. The recent consultations identified areas that require enhanced support to strengthen these services and long term supports for victims and offenders of family violence. Outreach services were also identified as a need. Outreach is providing services to people who might not otherwise have access to those services. A key component of outreach is meeting needs at locations where those in need are rather than individuals and families going to where the services are. In addition to delivering services, outreach has an educational role, raising the awareness of existing services.

Goal

Improve the provision of basic needs, housing, education and employment supports for victims experiencing family violence.

Strategies

- Support a continuum of comprehensive government and community outreach services, including peer support, to individuals and families experiencing family violence.
- Support all individuals and families leaving family violence to have access to emergency shelters, and a continuum of safe housing options with wrap-around supports in alignment with A Plan for Alberta – Ending Homelessness in 10 Years.
- Provide victims of family violence with increased coordinated support to more easily access programs and services through Alberta Supports www.albertasupports.ca
- Improve financial, education and employment assistance for victims of family violence to support economically sustainable, independent lives.
- Support access to coordinated, accredited language translation and interpretation services.

Goal

Maintain and enhance an effective justice response to family violence.

Strategies

- Continue to advance the Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (I-TRAC) through educating police services regarding the role of I-TRAC and referral processes.
- Support the justice system to increase coordination between criminal and family courts by improving information-sharing within and between the criminal and civil systems.
- Provide victims of family violence with increased support to access the legal system and access to legal advice and representation.

- Facilitate appropriate family violence educational opportunities, that incorporate emerging issues and cultural competencies to front-line responders, service providers, lawyers and judges within the justice system.
- Continue the development and implementation of risk management and safety management strategies to assist with an effective and appropriate justice response for victims and offenders.
- Explore opportunities through the Family Violence Police Advisory Committee to raise issues related to enforcement and protection of victims, in order to ensure a consistent response from police services, as well as recognize and share best practices such as RCMP Domestic Violence Intervention Teams, Edmonton Police Service Domestic Violence Reduction Strategy and Calgary Police Service Domestic Conflict Response Teams
- Support Community Corrections in their evidence-based practices that enhance the ability to identify and support victims and offenders of family violence.
- Work with Federal-Provincial-Territorial committees in addressing family violence issues.
- Utilize family violence criminal court proceedings through established Domestic Violence Courts.

Goal

Enhance screening, counselling and intervention support for victims and offenders of family violence.

Strategies

- Strengthen core, provincial screening practices and protocols within Alberta Health Services and Child Intervention Services to ensure that individuals experiencing family violence are identified and provided with specialized services in a timely manner.
- Ensure front-line service providers, child intervention workers, educators, health-care providers, police and child-care professionals are trained in trauma-informed assessment practices and approaches to working with children who are exposed to or experience family violence.
- Improve access and availability of counselling services for adults experiencing family violence as well as children exposed to or experiencing family violence.
- Continue to support evidence-informed mandated treatment programs for offenders.

Goal

Increase information sharing between systems working on preventing and responding to family violence.

Strategies

- Through the Information Sharing Strategy review legislation, policy and practices related to information sharing within and between government and service agencies to enhance services and supports and increase accountability and transparency.
- Support professionals at the local level to coordinate and share information that supports stronger services to respond to and prevent family violence.

Strategic Priority 3: Partner and plan with Alberta's diverse communities

Complex social issues are never solved by one organization working in isolation. Long-term solutions require participation from public and private entities working in partnership with communities. It is important to have participation from both public and private organizations, as well as a broad spectrum of stakeholders working across disciplines such as health, justice, social services and education, to ensure that efforts are integrated as opposed to silo-ed. By expanding the reach beyond the service providers, the ability to mobilize a larger network in family violence prevention is possible and necessary. Building the capacity of partners (whether it be individuals, organizations or communities) to participate in prevention efforts is essential, as they can influence healthy community values and behaviours.

Special attention should be paid to rural and remote areas as these are traditionally under-served in terms of available resources.

Goal

Increase the collective ability of professional and community-based organizations and cross-sector leaders to prevent family violence.

Strategies

- Support local leadership and networks in rural and remote communities to prevent and respond to family violence by investing in local family violence prevention plans.
- Design a provincial workplace strategy to prevent family violence by working with a cross-section of Alberta employers, government and family violence experts.
- Work with community networks and post-secondary schools and researchers to host conferences, think tanks and knowledge mobilization events to support the role or academics, practitioners, policy makers and communities to advance family violence prevention throughout Alberta.
- Implement ongoing family violence prevention training and cultural competencies for government workers, first responders, agencies working with children and youth and community agencies working in family violence prevention.
- Provide ongoing specialized training for child intervention workers regarding the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*, family violence, the impact of trauma on children who witness or are exposed to family violence.
- Provide training to post-secondary students in professional faculties (e.g., social workers, nurses, teachers, lawyers, and psychologists) regarding family violence, the impact of childhood trauma, and healthy interpersonal skills.

- Provide specialized training to ensure there is a pool of qualified practitioners of family violence treatment services.
- Initiate and invest in a tri-partnership task group (university/government/community) to develop a joint research agenda on preventing family violence, moving research to action, and building promising and best practices throughout Alberta.

Goal

Increase professional and community capacity to work with diverse communities to reduce and prevent family violence.

Strategies

- Work in partnership with Aboriginal communities, customized and community-led family violence prevention plans.
- Support ethno-cultural and faith-based leaders and organizations to develop and implement family violence prevention plans.
- Support immigrant and refugee service providers and networks to enhance their family violence prevention efforts.
- Work closely with community agencies and experts in the field of disabilities to assist in the prevention of family violence by fostering collaborative planning and service coordination for individuals with disabilities and their families.
- Convene community partners, relevant government ministries and other experts to develop a sexual abuse and health action plan for Alberta.
- Create an alliance with key stakeholders, academics and community leaders to to prevent family violence in Gender and Sexually Diverse communities.

Strategic Priority 4: Promote family and community safety through policy, legislation and public engagement

Research confirms our community values, beliefs and behaviors are influenced through policy, legislation, communications and social engagement campaigns and are key mechanisms to ending family violence. The Government of Alberta is committed to reviewing policy and legislation to support the prevention of family violence and to working through various multimedia partnerships to promote family and community safety.

Goal

Promote non-violence through targeted media and engagement strategies.

Strategies

- Develop a multi-layered, integrated social engagement framework designed to create an environment that promotes healthy and respectful relationships.
- Provide resources to community-based organizations to support complementary social media campaigns at the local level.
- Work directly with all forms of media and train family violence prevention community advocates to promote non-violence throughout all forms of media.
- Annually, recognize Albertans who lead and demonstrate a commitment to ending family violence in their communities.

Goal

Align policy and legislation to support family violence prevention.

Strategies

- Continue reviews of all relevant policies, regulations and legislation that impacts family violence to identify existing measures that promote and strengthen family violence prevention, as well as recommendations from the gaps identified.
- In consultation with key stakeholders, conduct annual reviews of the *Protection Against Family Violence Act* and formally evaluate the Act on a five-year cycle.
- Establish policies promoting non-physical forms of discipline of children in all government-funded programs.
- Complete a retrospective study of family violence-related homicides and suicides in Alberta and use results to inform policy, systems change and practices.
- Establish a formal family violence death review committee to make ongoing recommendations for practice, policy and legislation enhancements on an annual basis.

Strategic Priority 5: Evaluate, measure and demonstrate success

The Government of Alberta does not have a standardized and reliable system to collect family violence-related data. Lack of consistent information about the number of women, men and children affected by family violence contributes to an inability to gauge the magnitude of family violence in relation to other health problems. It also limits the ability to identify the most at-risk populations that might benefit from focused interventions or increased service provision, and hinders the ability to monitor the incidence and prevalence of family violence. This, in turn, restricts the potential to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies.

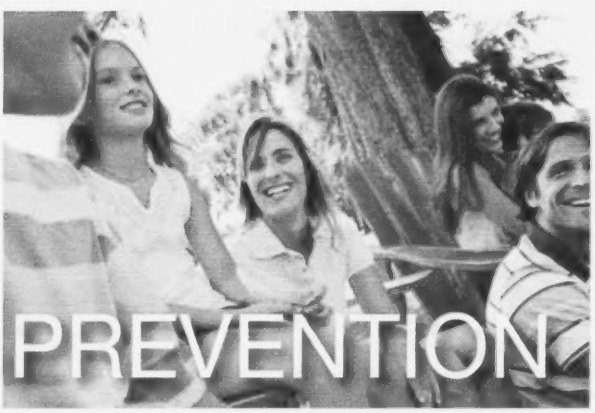
Lack of accurate data about the prevalence, incidence and causes of family violence has limited the nature and scope of prevention initiatives. This is intensified by a lack of quality evaluation data. Prevention of family violence requires a sound understanding of what works, when and for whom.

Goal

Establish a comprehensive evaluation system that will monitor rates of family violence, monitor and evaluate the implementation and success of the new framework, and design an outcome data collection strategy with funded programs and strategies.

Strategies

- Develop and invest in a comprehensive data collection system to more accurately track the prevalence of family violence across Alberta.
- Develop an integrated outcomes-based management and accountability framework to evaluate success of the investments, interventions and monitoring of the framework.
- Develop measures to assess the progress of individual projects, programs and of the overall plan, and report back to Albertans every two years.
- Continue to administer the Albertans' Perceptions of Family Violence and Bullying survey and use the results to help inform policy, legislation and programs.
- Support community agencies to use continuous outcome based improvement processes and to report back on the impact of their programs on three-year funding cycles.
- Support organizations, community-based groups and academics to conduct research and evaluate interventions and promising practices.



OUTCOMES

The following outcomes are the anticipated results associated with the implementation of *Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta.**

The Government of Alberta is committed to achieving these outcomes and monitoring the rates and severity of family violence, incidents of family violence and changes in tolerance towards family violence. Moving forward in this process, an implementation plan and evaluation framework will be developed and a commitment made to report back to Albertans every two years.

Short-Term Outcomes (1-5 years)

Individual/ relationship	Organizational	Community	Societal
• Improved connections to resources and support • Respectful and equitable gender relations • Improved attitudes toward gender equity, gender roles and violence/violence against women • Problematic substance use/ gambling or other addictions are addressed	• Model, promote and facilitate equal, respectful and non-violent gender relations • Work in partnership across sectors to address violence • Implement evidence-informed violence prevention activities • Ensure activities are accessible and safe and supportive for women	• Value and support norms which are non-violent and build respectful and equitable gender relations • Build connections between people and sources of formal and informal support • Take action to address violence	• A society in which there are strong legislative and regulatory frameworks and appropriate resource allocation for supporting: › Gender equity › The prevention and prohibition of violence › The positive portrayal of women and men (e.g., in advertising) › The development of healthy relationships between men and women, men and men, and women and women

Long-Term Outcomes (5-10 years)

Individual/ relationship	Organizational	Community	Societal
• Reduction in violence-related mortality • Improved interpersonal skills and family and gender relations • Reduced intergenerational transmission of violence and its impacts	• Violence prevention resources and activities integrated across sectors and settings • Organizations that value and promote respectful gender relations • Improved access to resources and systems of support	• Communities that value gender equity and respectful relationships between men and women • Reduced social isolation and improved community connections	• Reduced gender inequality • Improved quality of life for men and women • Reduced levels of violence/violence against women • Improved productivity

* The Government of Alberta would like to thank VicHealth and the State of Victoria for their publication "Preventing Violence Before it Occurs: A framework and background paper to guide the prevention of violence against women in Victoria" as the outcomes were extrapolated from this report.

CONCLUSION

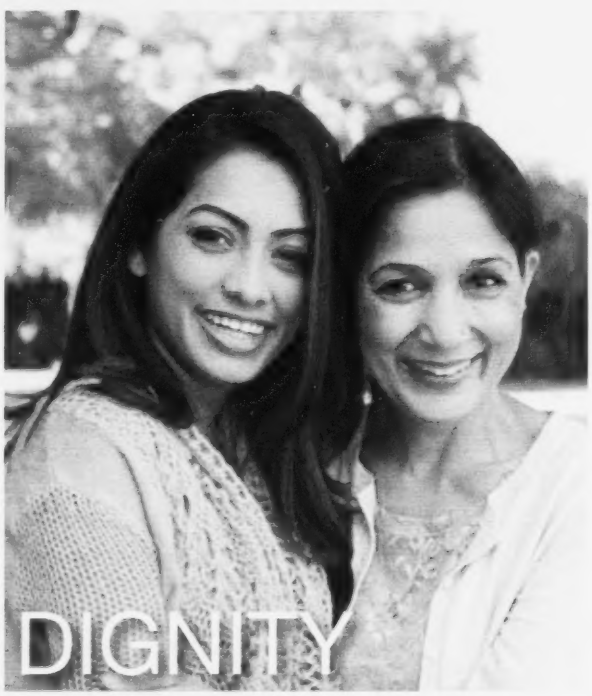
Everyone deserves to be free from family violence and able to experience healthy relationships that are the foundation of vibrant lives. This is the vision that has guided the Government of Alberta for three decades as we work with our partners in the community to put an end to family violence. Family violence hurts everyone and is, therefore, a top public priority.

Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta will be guided by the Social Policy Framework and strengthened by adopting a whole-government approach. This means working in partnership to align with other government initiatives, such as:

- An Alberta Approach to Early Childhood Development
- Information Sharing Strategy
- Children First Act
- Poverty Reduction Strategy
- A Plan For Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 Years
- Aboriginal Engagement Strategies
- Addressing Elder Abuse in Alberta: A Strategy for Collective Action
- Creating Connections: Alberta's Addiction and Mental Health Strategy
- Alberta Crime Prevention Framework
- Prevention of Bullying Strategy
- Results-Based Budgeting
- Family Care Clinics

The Government of Alberta will also seek future partnerships with the private sector, formal and informal community leaders and community groups to get underneath this complex social issue. We will support leadership in all sectors and all communities to help build a safer Alberta.

Over the next 10 years, the Government of Alberta will continue to support and invest in our community partners to deliver critical services to victims and perpetrators and families so we can stop the cycle of family violence. We have made tremendous strides over the past three decades to deal with family violence and have built a solid foundation through innovative legislation, crisis intervention, legal and police response, and community coordination. Now is the time to take the next step to focus on preventing family violence from happening in the first place. Family violence hurts everyone; by working together, we can end family violence in Alberta.



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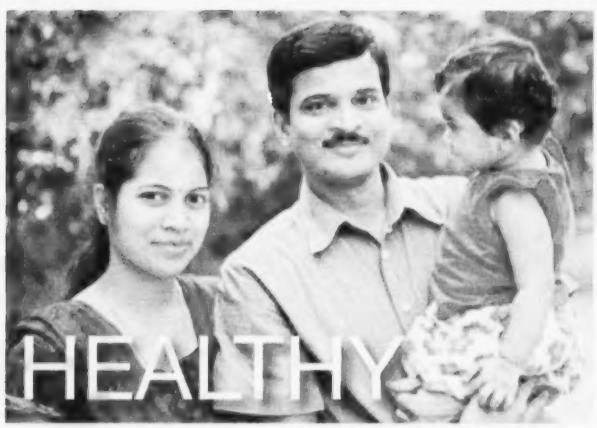


APPENDIX A

Roles for Government of Alberta Ministries to Implement Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta

Roles Across Government
• Establish a shared vision, provincial priorities and policy directions amongst all ministries.
• Provide the legislative and policy framework and funding support for ending family violence.
• Facilitate collaboration among individuals, families, communities and all sectors.
• Support the provision of co-ordinated and integrated supports and services at the community level and a strong justice response.
• Facilitate opportunities to mobilize knowledge between policy makers, academics, practitioners and citizens.
• Support innovative research and programming and measure and monitor the trends and impact of the framework and investments.

Ministry	Strategies
Aboriginal Relations	• Work in partnership with Aboriginal communities to develop customized and community-led family violence prevention and intervention plans (with Human Services). • Help facilitate ongoing family violence prevention training and cultural competencies for government workers, first responders, agencies working with children and youth and community agencies working in family violence prevention. • Provide data to measure the Framework's outcomes.
Education	• Adopt a whole-school and community approach to improve children and young people's healthy relationship skills, social and emotional intelligence, and sexual health using evidence informed programs and policies (with Human Services). • In partnership with youth-serving community agencies and school jurisdictions, support a strategic and coordinated approach to provide healthy relationship skills to youth (with Human Services). • Provide data to measure the Framework's outcomes.

Health and Alberta Health Services	• Work closely with emergent Family Care Clinics to ensure medical staff, social workers and other professionals are trained in trauma sensitive practices and screening for family violence. • Improve access and availability of counselling services for adults experiencing family violence as well as children exposed to or experiencing family violence. • Continue to support evidence-informed mandated treatment programs for offenders. • Strengthen core, provincial screening practices and protocols within Alberta Health Services to ensure that individuals experiencing family violence are identified and provided with specialized services in a timely manner. • Partner with the Addiction and Mental Health Strategy to support parents who are experiencing mental health issues, in order to prevent children's exposure to family violence. • Continue to work with governments and community partners to implement the Addressing Elder Abuse in Alberta: A Strategy for Collective Action, the Alberta government's plan to prevent and address elder abuse. • Provide data to measure the Framework's outcomes.

Justice and Solicitor General	• Continue to advance the Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (ITRAC) through educating police services regarding the role of ITRAC and referral processes. • Support the justice system to increase coordination between criminal and family courts by improving information-sharing within and between the criminal and civil systems. • Provide victims of family violence with increased support to access the legal system and access to legal advice and representation. • Incorporate family violence prevention in Family Justice Services programs and supports. For example, parenting after separation and high conflict programs for parents. • Support Community Corrections in their evidence-based practices that enhance the ability to identify and support victims and offenders of family violence. • Utilize family violence criminal court proceedings through established Domestic Violence Courts. • Collaborate with Federal-Provincial-Territorial committees in addressing family violence issues. • Support the Family Violence Policing Advisory Committee to raise issues related to enforcement and protection of victims, in order to ensure a consistent response from police services as well as recognize and share best practices such as RCMP Domestic Violence Intervention Teams, Edmonton Police Service Domestic Violence Reduction Strategy and Calgary Police Service Domestic Conflict Response Teams. • Continue the development and implementation of risk management and safety management strategies to assist with an effective and appropriate justice response for victims and offenders. • Facilitate appropriate family violence educational opportunities that incorporate emerging issues and cultural competencies to front-line responders, service providers, lawyers and judges within the justice system. • Provide data to measure the Framework's outcomes.

Human Services	• As lead, collaborate with the partnering Ministries to implement the family violence framework strategy in alignment with the Alberta Approach to Early Childhood Development which focuses on enhancing parenting resources - develop a provincial parenting strategy that: explores best practices for supporting at risk families; expands evidence-based positive parenting programs (Health and Education); • Provide support to programs that focus on teen mothers and promote positive fathering programs for teen fathers and new parents. • Enhance Alberta's home visitation program to incorporate a strong focus on preventing family violence through screening and building healthy parent/child relationships. • Develop, promote and support a comprehensive provincial strategy to engage men and boys in family violence prevention. • Pilot an evidence-informed educational program promoting gender equality and healthy relationships tailored to young people in post-secondary school settings. • Apply a gender-based analysis to identify solutions for preventing family violence throughout all programs, strategies and initiatives funded by the Government of Alberta. • Support a continuum of comprehensive government and community outreach services, including peer support, to individuals and families experiencing family violence. • Support all individuals and families leaving family violence to have access to emergency shelters, and a continuum of safe housing options with wrap-around supports in alignment with A Plan for Alberta: the 10 year plan to end homelessness. • Provide victims of family violence with increased coordinated support to more easily access programs and services through Alberta Supports. • Improve financial, education and employment assistance for victims of family violence to support economically sustainable, independent lives. • Support access to coordinated, accredited language translation and interpretation services. • Support ethno-cultural and faith based leaders and organizations to develop and implement family violence prevention plans • Support local leadership and networks in rural and remote communities to prevent and respond to family violence by investing in local family violence prevention plans. • Work with community networks and post-secondary schools and researchers to host conferences, think tanks and knowledge mobilization events. • Implement ongoing comprehensive family violence prevention training and cultural competencies for government workers, first responders, agencies.

	• Develop a multi-layered, integrated social engagement framework designed to create an environment that promotes healthy and respectful relationships. • Review legislation, policy and practices related to information sharing within and between government and service agencies to enhance services and supports and increase accountability and transparency. • Establish a formal family violence death review committee to make ongoing recommendations for practice, policy and legislation enhancements on an annual basis. • Establish a comprehensive evaluation system that will monitor rates of family violence, monitor and evaluate the implementation and success of the new framework, and design an outcome data collection strategy with funded programs and strategies. • Convene community partners, relevant government ministries and other experts to develop a prevention of sexual abuse action plan for Alberta.

APPENDIX B: THE COMMUNITY STRENGTHENED

Community agencies throughout Alberta have made significant contributions to addressing family violence through advocacy and support to families, operation of women's emergency shelters, outreach services, coordinated collaborative responses, training opportunities, research, etc. There are numerous examples of actions at the community level that have built a solid foundation for intervention and protection services. Listed below are some key investments and improvements made by the Government of Alberta since 2004.

- Introduction of the Children First Act in 2013.
- Amendments to the *Protection Against Family Violence Act* (PAFVA) in 2006 and 2011 improved protection for victims, including mandatory penalties for violations of protection orders that are among the strongest in Canada.
- Family violence policies included in the proclamation of the 2004 *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*, identifying the impacts and strategies in dealing with children exposed to family violence.
- Alberta Justice's Family Law Strategy – the court must take into consideration the best interests of the child in the *Family Law Act* if there are any family violence issues.
- Addressing Elder Abuse in Alberta: A Strategy for Collective Action includes: actions to improve awareness of elder abuse, including financial abuse; the development and implementation of elder abuse-specific training for service providers; and support for communities to enhance coordinated community response to elder abuse, including effective intervention.
- Screening tools developed to assist with effective responses from community responders, including the Family Violence Investigation Report (FVIR) used by the police and the Screening Aid for Family Violence (SAFV) used by Human Services Child Intervention caseworkers.
- Domestic Violence Police Guidelines and the Domestic Violence Handbook were developed to provide the basis for consistent practices for police services and Crown prosecutors.
- The Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (I-TRAC), is a multi-disciplinary, specialized unit that provides an informed, non-prejudicial opinion on risk and risk management in the service of protecting victims and the prevention of violence. This is achieved through ongoing research, education and practice. I-TRAC threat assessment services are available in cases involving serious domestic, stalking and non-domestic violence and/or threatening behaviour.
- Family violence programs throughout the province received funding from the following Government of Alberta grant programs: Community Incentive Fund; the Safe Communities Innovation Fund; Victims of Crime Fund; Civil Forfeiture Fund; Community Initiatives Program; and Community Facility Entrance Program.
- Operating funding to 30 women's emergency shelter programs has increased by 90 per cent over the last nine years.
- Supported 276 innovative child care spaces in women's shelters to increase support for quality child care for families receiving services from women's shelters.
- Funded nine sexual assault centres and their provincial association to offer services to victims of sexual violence in the context of family violence.
- Seven safe visitation programs have been established throughout the province to provide a safe environment for children to visit with a non-custodial parent in situations of ongoing family violence.
- Eight Victim's Supports Outreach sites provide specialized services to Aboriginal and immigrant families experiencing family violence.

- Collaborative Community Responses (CCR) were funded throughout Alberta to promote a local continuum of services including prevention, intervention, support and follow-up for families experiencing violence.
- Provincial Family Violence Treatment programs were established to provide an approach coordinated with Probation and Justice, including: eight domestic violence courts, specialized prosecution and court services; mandated offender treatment; supervision and enforcement of court orders; and community coordination and victim supports.
- Albertans fleeing abuse are offered financial supports through Alberta Works. The emergency allowance, along with specialized supports, allows individuals and families to get to safety, set up a household and start a new life.
- Funding to support housing for many victims of family violence.
- Established Regional Family Violence and Bullying Coordinators in each of the 10 Child and Family Services Authorities to work with communities in taking action against family violence at the local level.
- A Family Violence Info Line is available 24/7, toll-free in Alberta, which provides services in more than 170 languages.
- Hosted the World Conference on Prevention of Family Violence, the International Policy Forum and continue to support the annual Diverse Voices Conference in Edmonton that brings researchers, community-based organizations, policy-makers and citizens together.
- Family Violence and Bullying 101, a cross-sector training program, was designed to increase knowledge on family violence, facilitate knowledge transfer and increase skills with practitioners dealing with family violence.
- To support the community to engage in family violence prevention activities, the Government of Alberta designed the Community Engagement Framework: A Strategic Framework and Guide with the goal to increase community capacity for action on family violence and bullying.
- Over 100 publications on understanding family violence, breaking the cycle of family violence and community resources are available free of charge to Albertans and in 12 languages at www.familyviolence.alberta.ca.
- A public opinion survey of Albertans' Perceptions of Family Violence and Bullying is administered biannually to inform policy and program decisions.
- Family Violence Prevention Month (FVPM) is proclaimed each November and materials and events are offered throughout the province.
- Inspiration Awards to recognize leaders in family violence prevention

APPENDIX C: CONSULTATION THEMES

Consultations with Government of Alberta staff, community partners and stakeholders were held to inform the future directions for *Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta*. The key themes that emerged from the consultations were:

- **Family Violence is a Complex Issue**—services must be flexible and consider the needs of all members of the family
- **Prevention**—need to invest in prevention strategies while maintaining investments in current intervention strategies
- **Coordinated, Community-Based Models**—continue to provide resources and support to local family violence prevention plans and invest in coordinating bodies
- **Knowledge Mobilization is Essential**—training on Family Violence 101, advanced family violence, cultural competency in services, translating research to practice and practice-driving research

- **Sustained Public Awareness Campaigns**—focus messaging on "family violence is preventable" and "help is available"
- **Counselling and Treatment**—invest in client-centred, family-focused services for victims, children and offenders, including trauma-focused practice
- **Support and Education for Parents**—focus on programs like home visitation, Parent Link Centres, and evidenced-based programs like Triple P-Positive Parenting Program
- **Greater Focus on Children**—expand and support programming for children who experience and/or are exposed to family violence
- **Dating Violence**—ensure sufficient healthy relationship education and programs for teenagers, particularly for those at risk, are offered throughout the province
- **Engage Men and Boys in Family Violence Prevention**—men need to feel valued and supported to model and coach boys to respect women and girls and themselves
- **Aboriginal Peoples**—support Aboriginal communities to lead and deliver services
- **Immigrant and Refugee Populations**—ensure appropriate translation and interpretation services, and community-based, culture-specific supports and leadership are available
- **Better Information Sharing**—among sectors and specifically between family court and criminal court
- **Improved Legal Supports**—improve access to legal aid services and provide system navigators for better and responsive services to victims
- **Housing**—continued and new investments in emergency, second-stage and affordable, accessible, permanent housing for individuals and families fleeing violence
- **Data Systems and Evaluations**—gather pertinent data to identify prevalence, assess effectiveness of programs and strategies, and develop an outcome-based accountability framework

APPENDIX D: GLOSSARY

Domestic Violence: The attempt, act or intent of someone within a relationship, where the relationship is characterized by intimacy, dependency or trust, to intimidate either by threat or by the use of physical force on another person or property. The purpose of the abuse is to control and/or exploit through neglect, intimidation, inducement of fear or by inflicting pain. Abusive behaviour can take many forms including: verbal, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, spiritual and economic, and the violation of rights. All forms of abusive behaviour are ways in which one human being is trying to have control and/or exploit or have power over another.

Ethno-Cultural: Shares characteristics that are unique to, and recognized by, the group. Characteristics may include: cultural traditions; ancestry; language; national identity; country of origin; or physical traits. A group may have its origins in many countries or link its distinct identity to a geographic region within a country. Religion may also be a defining characteristic because, in some cases, it may be completely tied into a group's racial or cultural identity.

Evidence-Based: The term evidence-based was first developed in the sphere of medicine and was defined as the integration of best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values. In the context of social programs, services and supports, evidence-based refers to the use of high-quality evidence (e.g., randomized controlled trials) to develop, test and modify programs and services so that they are achieving the outcomes they are intended to achieve.

Evidence-Informed: Evidence-Informed Practice (EIP) is an approach to program or service delivery in which service providers, program implementers and program planners are aware of the evidence relevant to our practice or program initiatives, and apply that knowledge within the scope of our work.

Family: Family members are those people who are or have been married, adult interdependent partners, those who live or have lived together as intimate partners, parents of one or more children, regardless of their marital status and people. Family member also include those who are related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption or those who reside together where one of the people has care and custody over the other as ordered by the Court.

Family Violence: The abuse of power within relationships of family, trust or dependency that endangers the survival, security or well-being of another person. It can take many forms including spouse abuse, senior abuse and neglect, child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, parent abuse, and witnessing abuse of others in the family. Family violence may include some or all of the following behaviours: physical abuse; psychological abuse; criminal harassment/stalking; verbal abuse; sexual abuse; financial abuse; and spiritual abuse.

Gender and Sexually Diverse people are those persons who constitute a minority population due to differences in their sexual orientations and/or gender identities. Groups characterized as sexual minorities across sex, sexual and gender differences include lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transsexuals, intersexuals, transgendered, and Two-Spirit Aboriginals. Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects sexual minorities against discrimination in Canadian culture and society.

Healthy Relationships: Those that consist of a connection between people that increases well-being, is mutually enjoyable and enhances or maintains each individual's positive self-concept.

Immigrant: Persons residing in Canada who were born outside of Canada, excluding temporary foreign workers, Canadian citizens born outside Canada and those with student or working visas.

Intimate Partners: Opposite-sex or same-sex partners in current and former dating relationships, current and former common-law relationships, current and former married relationships, and persons who are the parents of one or more children, regardless of their marital status or whether they have lived together at any time.

Primary Prevention: Primary prevention in this context means reducing the number of new instances of family violence by intervening before any violence has occurred. Primary prevention relies on identification of the underlying, or 'upstream,' risk and protective factors for intimate-partner violence and/or sexual violence, and action to address those factors.

Promising Practices: A 'promising model' is defined as one with at least preliminary evidence of effectiveness in small-scale interventions or for which there is potential for generating data that will be useful for making decisions about taking the intervention to scale and generalizing the results to diverse populations and settings.

Refugee: A person who is outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence; has a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of his or her race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion; and is unable or unwilling to avail him or herself of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution.

Trauma-Informed Care: An approach to engaging people with histories of trauma that recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role that trauma has played in their lives.

APPENDIX E

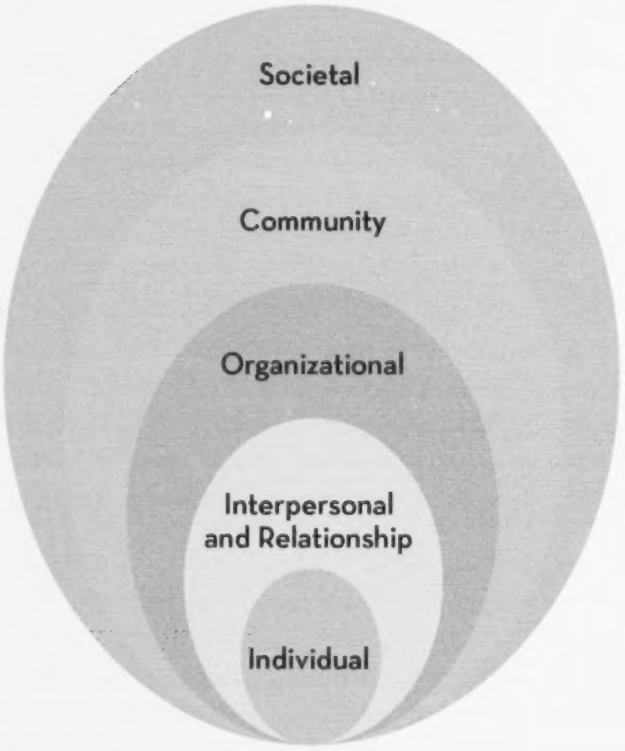
PRIMARY PREVENTION MODELS

Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta demonstrates how to collectively prevent and significantly reduce family violence using a comprehensive approach where everyone is part of the solution. Both the Ecological Model and Spectrum of Prevention were used to build this framework.

The Ecological Model

The Ecological Model proposes that family violence is the result of interactions between the individual and society. It also suggests that creating an environment conducive to change is important to making it easier for people to adopt healthy behaviours. The levels of interaction where change needs to be supported are show in the following graphic:

- **Individual**—knowledge, attitude, skills and personal history
- **Interpersonal and Relationship**—household dynamics, circumstances and social networks
- **Organizational**—environment, workplace
- **Community**—culture and values, physical and demographic features of an area in which people live, communities of interest
- **Societal**—cultural values and beliefs, structures and processes, laws and policies



The Spectrum of Prevention

The Spectrum of Prevention is a six-level tool that can help in the advancement of government and community solutions to prevent family violence. At its essence is the belief that a single individual or sector cannot address the problem alone and that activities must take place simultaneously to get at complex social issues. This framework incorporates strategies at each level of the spectrum.

Six Levels of the Spectrum of Prevention

Levels of the Spectrum	Description*
Strengthening individual knowledge and skills.	Enhancing an individual's capability and skills in non-violent means to resolve interpersonal conflict and prevent injury, crime and violence.
Promoting community education.	Reaching groups of people with information and resources in order to promote healthy relationships and equitable gender norms.
Educating service providers and practitioners.	Informing providers who will transmit skills and knowledge to others to disrupt and stop violence from occurring.
Fostering coalitions and networks.	Bringing together groups and individuals for broader goals and greater impact and to influence healthy social and community norms.
Changing organizational practices.	Adopting regulations and norms to improve health and safety and provide leadership in diverse settings to support healthy relationships.
Influencing policy and legislation.	Developing strategies to change laws and policies in order to influence outcomes in social services, health, education and justice that support gender equity, reduce poverty and provide a strong social safety net for those who are vulnerable.

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